

**LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY  
OFFICE OF FISCAL AND MANAGEMENT ANALYSIS**

301 State House  
(317) 232-9855

**FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

**LS 7861**

**BILL NUMBER: HB 1906**

**DATE PREPARED: Jan 7, 2001**

**BILL AMENDED:**

**SUBJECT:** Voter registration.

**FISCAL ANALYST:** Chris Baker

**PHONE NUMBER:** 232-9851

**FUNDS AFFECTED: X GENERAL  
DEDICATED  
FEDERAL**

**IMPACT:** State & Local

**Summary of Legislation:** This bill requires the Election Division of the Secretary of State's Office to maintain the statewide voter registration file so that the file is accessible by the Election Division and county voter registration offices through a secure connection over the Internet. The bill requires the Election Division to format the file so that only the county voter registration office of a particular county is able to change data in the file for that particular county's voters. It also provides that the Election Commission is not required to provide direct public access to the statewide voter registration file over the Internet. The bill requires voter registration offices to issue voter identification cards. It provides that an individual who presents an acknowledgment of voter registration received at a license branch or other voter registration agency is entitled to vote unless the county voter registration agency has denied the individual's application and a copy of the denial is present at the precinct on election day. This bill also repeals obsolete sections of the voter registration statutes.

**Effective Date:** January 1, 2002.

**Explanation of State Expenditures:** Currently, the Election Division of the Secretary of State maintains a temporary database which annually requires compilation. Any updates or error corrections require a complete rebuilding of the database.

In order to comply with the bill's provisions, the Division would require a centralized repository database server to support the submission, management, and reporting of voter registration data. Based on a report from Quest Information Systems completed for the Division, it is estimated that the expenditures for such a system could range between \$100,000 and \$236,000 in the first year of implementation: FY 2002. In addition to this expenditure, several other expenditures would be required for proper implementation of a voter registration information system including: detail system design, application development, additional storage, documentation and training, and system administration/support. These additional expenditures could increase the total cost to a range of \$700,000 to \$830,000 in FY 2002. Of these costs, the system

administration and support would be ongoing at approximately \$150,000 per year. The cost for administration and support could vary depending if the support staff were outsourced through a private contractor, or if the Division were authorized to hire the necessary staff. The estimate assumes that required connection to the Internet from the Election Division is already in place.

The processing of submissions by counties of voter registration data could be performed by Election Division staff or handled by contract with an outside vendor.

### **Explanation of State Revenues:**

**Explanation of Local Expenditures:** *Voter Registration Database:* Counties could experience start-up costs for an Internet browsing PC or workstation and a printer, and ongoing costs for Internet access fees. Quest Information estimates the cost could be \$6,400 to a county without any of the above components. In addition, approximately \$1,200 to \$1,500 in expenditures could be required if counties need software modifications in order to comply with the State repository/database.

The Election Division currently estimates one third of the counties would require all of the components above and could face expenditures of approximately \$8,000. Another third of counties have the equipment necessary, but lack Internet Access and could have expenditures ranging from \$1,200 to \$1,500. Roughly another third, including larger counties such as Marion, Lake, and Allen, have all of the components required to send data already and would require minimal expense.

The State of Indiana has offered in the past used PC's at a substantial discount to qualified entities. If a county were to qualify, and the PC acquired were able to accept Windows 95 software, potentially some expenditure could be saved.

*Voter Identification Cards:* Currently, under the motor/voter statute, the Bureau of Motor Vehicles (BMV) is required to provide a receipt as written acknowledgment that a person has registered to vote if the person chooses to register to vote when applying for an operator driver's license. The bill would require the County Voting Registration Office to send a voter identification card to the registered voter. County Voting Registration Offices already send confirmation of voting status by mail to newly registered/re-registered voters. If these confirmations do not include a registration card, the standard form sent to a new register could be modified to include a detachable card similar to handgun permits. The Indiana State Police reports the cost to produce a handgun permit is \$0.02 per form, including printing and paper costs.

### **Explanation of Local Revenues:**

**State Agencies Affected:** Indiana Election Division.

**Local Agencies Affected:** County Voter Registration Offices.

**Information Sources:** Bruce Northern, Indiana Election Division, (317) 232-3939; Indiana State Police.